

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Bulgarian Educational System;  
Organization of Schools

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REFERENCES

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1. Bulgarian national education is directed by the Ministry of Public Education which is responsible for outlining educational and scholastic policy and exercises supreme control over all services and organizations connected with national education.
2. The central organization of the Ministry of Public Education includes the following:
  - a. A Deputy Minister (Undersecretary of State), who helps the minister in his work, directs the various services, and sees that they operate legally and smoothly;
  - b. Jurists, who are responsible for expressing their judicial opinion on problems submitted to them by the various services; and
  - c. Political consultants, who are responsible for seeing that instruction is given "in the spirit of the progressive and democratic ideas outlined in the constitution of the People's Republic."
3. The Central Administration of the Ministry of Public Education is composed of:
  - a. Four General Directorates;
  - b. Two Special Sections;
  - c. One Administrative Unit; and
  - d. One Inspectorate.

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8. Derogating from the Law of 5 July 1947, which placed the Higher Education Section under the "Komitet za Nauka, Izkustvo i Kultura" (Committee for Science, Art, and Culture), at present the Higher Education Section is under the control of the "Committee for Higher Education," which committee is composed of one teacher elected from each faculty, two members of the Bulgarian Academy, and the Director of Higher Education at the Ministry of Public Education.
9. The Bulgarian school system includes the following three types of instruction:
  - a. Elementary instruction;
  - b. Secondary school and technical school instruction; and
  - c. University instruction.
10. Elementary education is given in state elementary schools which are composed of:
  - a. Kindergartens;
  - b. Primary Schools; and
  - c. Progymnasiums.
11. The kindergartens aim in particular at assuring a happy childhood and an integral development to children from the age of three to seven, by means of games, songs, manual work, and conversation. The children are kept in nursery schools until they are five and from five to seven they attend kindergartens. In each of these schools they are under the pedagogical control of the Ministry of Public Education, and expenses for their education are taken care of by the local communities. There are also nursery schools for children up to three years of age; these schools are under the control of the Ministry of Health.
12. The primary school (a 4-year lower grade elementary school) is obligatory and free. All children who are seven years of age and are sons or daughters of Bulgarian citizens, are admitted to these schools. Primary schools are located in nearly all the small villages of Bulgaria where there are at least 20 children who are obliged to go to school, or who are between seven and 15 years of age. In mountain villages, this number may be lower.
13. Progymnasiums (3-year higher grade elementary schools) are located in all villages where there are at least 25 students for the first, 20 for the second, and 15 for the third class who are obligated to go to school. In mountain areas, these figures are reduced respectively to 20, 15, and 10 children. Progymnasium instruction is free, obligatory, and available to all children of Bulgarian citizens who are required to go to school, with the exception of those children whose home is more than three kilometers from the location of the progymnasium. The students who complete third progymnasium must take a final examination. Instruction control is carried out by a General Directorate for elementary instruction through chief inspectors who are subordinate to the Ministry, through departmental inspectors for preschool education and through departmental inspectors for physical education. Every primary school, if autonomous, is directed administratively by the chief instructor, while the elementary schools are headed by a director. Both chief instructors and directors are aided by a Council of Teachers. The primary schools are coeducational. In accordance with the Law of 9 September 1944, school is obligatory from the ages of 7 to 15. The maximum number of students in a class is 40.
14. Secondary Schools are either special schools or for general education (gymnasiums). Both of these may be either for boys, for girls, or coeducational. Gymnasiums are open to all students who have completed the progymnasium or an institute for the blind. There are gymnasiums which include all classes (fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh); others which only have the fourth and fifth classes, and still others

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which include the fourth, fifth, and sixth classes. Secondary school education is obligatory. Students pay a tuition fee which is based on the financial position of their parents. Children of certain categories of citizens who either have a very low income or hold certain political or civil positions, are exonerated from paying any tuition fee whatsoever. As a result of their great desire for completing more advanced studies, a large majority of the students who have completed progymnasium, enters secondary schools, particularly gymnasiums. Since 9 September 1944, the number of students entering gymnasiums has increased. As of that time, the entrance examination was done away with and the period of instruction was reduced from five to four years, in accordance with the principle of democratization of schooling. The number of students in a gymnasium class must not exceed 35, and there must be no more than 1,000 students in the entire gymnasium. There are three secondary schools for music which were founded after 1944, and are also under the control of the Ministry of Public Education. Each secondary school, whether for general culture or specialized, is managed by a Director who is aided by a Teachers' Council. If there are more than 18 parallel classes, there is also a deputy director.

15. In connection with the plan for the economic development of Bulgaria, the program of professional and technical instruction has been expanded by creating various schools of various types, based on the economic situation of the various localities. One of the fundamental principles adopted in the program for professional schools is the introduction of theoretical and scientific subjects, in addition to standard subjects, in order to raise the general educational level of workers in the various branches of economic and cultural life of Bulgaria.
16. Under the name of "Schools of Advanced Studies" are at present included the following:
  - a. "Kliment Okhridski" University of Sofia;
  - b. "Paisiy Khilendarski" University of Plovdiv;
  - c. "Kiril Slovyanabolgoski" University of Varna (now Stalin);
  - d. "Stalin" Polytechnical University of Sofia;
  - e. Advanced Technical Institute of Ruse;
  - f. Advanced Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, of Svishtov;
  - g. Advanced School of Physical Training of Sofia;
  - h. Musical Academy of Sofia;
  - i. "Vasil Levski" Naval School of Sofia; and
  - j. "Sava Raykovski" Military School of Sofia.
17. The "Kliment Okhridski" University of Sofia is located in the center of the city, has at present an enrollment of approximately 20,000 students, and includes the following faculties or attached institutes:
  - a. Philosophy and History Faculty;
  - b. Philology Faculty;
  - c. Geology and Geography Faculty;
  - d. Physics and Mathematics Faculty,

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- e. Law Faculty;
  - f. Economic Sciences Faculty;
  - g. Medicine Faculty, attached to the "Vũlko Chervenkov" Medical Academy and is located in a separate institute; and
  - h. Agriculture Faculty, attached to the "Georgi Dimitrov" Rural Economy Academy and located in a separate institute.
18. The "Paysiy Khilendarski" University of Plovdiv was reorganized by the present regime and includes two faculties:
- a. Medicine Faculty; and
  - b. Agronomy and Forestry Faculty.
19. The "Kiril Slovyanabolgoski" University of Varna was created in 1948 by transforming the former Advanced Institute of Economic Sciences. It has a total of about 2,000 students and includes three faculties:
- a. Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences;
  - b. Faculty of Building Construction; and
  - c. Machinery and Mechanics Faculty.
20. The "Stalin" Polytechnical Institute of Sofia (Durzhavna Politekhnik) was created in 1945 and expanded in 1950. At present it includes the following faculties:
- a. Civil Engineering Faculty;
  - b. Mechanical Engineering Faculty;
  - c. Electrotechnical Faculty;
  - d. Hydrotechnical Faculty;
  - e. Chemical Technology Faculty; and
  - f. Soil Study Faculty.
21. The Advanced Technical Institute of Ruse was created in 1947 and includes the following specialties:
- a. Mechanical Engineering; and
  - b. Industrial Chemistry.
22. The Advanced Institute of Social and Economic Sciences in Svishtov was created in 1947 and includes the following specialties:
- a. Administrative and Financial Sciences;
  - b. Economic Sciences; and
  - c. Social Sciences.
23. The Advanced School of Physical Culture in Sofia was created in 1945 and is subordinate to the Physical Culture and Sport Committee which is under the control of the DSNM (Dimitrovski Stuyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth).

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24. The Sofia Musical Academy existed prior to the Communist Regime. At present it has been expanded and opened to a larger number of students.
25. The "Vasil Levski" Military Academy of Sofia curriculum includes the following subjects:

a. General subjects for all services:

- (1) Politico-Military studies;
- (2) Physical Training;
- (3) Standard Training (close order drill);
- (4) Professional subjects:
  - (a) Tactics;
  - (b) Use of the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Engineers;
  - (c) Topography;
  - (d) Fortifications and Camouflage;
  - (e) Firing and Use of Infantry Weapons;
  - (f) Military History;
  - (g) Military Geography;
  - (h) Services;
  - (i) Communications;
  - (j) Military psychology and pedagogy;
  - (k) Military Law;
  - (l) Military Hygiene;
  - (m) Discipline Regulations;
  - (n) Interior Services Regulations;
  - (o) Territorial Regulations;
  - (p) Mobilization and Demobilization;
  - (q) Foreign languages (Russian obligatory); and
  - (r) Tactical Exercises Common to the Various Services.

b. Subjects particular to individual services:

- (1) Infantry: use of the patrol, squad, platoon, company, battalion;
- (2) Cavalry, artillery, engineers: use of corresponding units.

Engineer students and artillery student officers must also frequent several courses at the special schools for artillery and engineers in Sofia. Upon completion of the first course in Sofia, student officers who are specialized as tankmen, must frequent the Tank School in Plovdiv.

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26. The "Sava Rakevski" War College of Sofia teaches the following subjects:
- The infantry and its chief tactical problems;
  - The artillery and its chief tactical problems;
  - The cavalry and its chief tactical problems;
  - The engineers and their chief technical and tactical problems;
  - The tactical and strategic use of armored troops;
  - Tactical and general strategy problems in the principal armies;
  - Command techniques; General Staff service;
  - Logistical services in the division, the corps, and the army;
  - History of military art;
  - Military history with particular reference to the 1939-1945 period;
  - Geography;
  - Fortifications;
  - Mobilization and demobilization problems;
  - Total war;
  - Military transportation;
  - Principles of war at sea;
  - Air war;
  - Military intelligence; cyphers;
  - Military law; political economy; philosophy; and
  - Foreign languages (Russian obligatory); topographic and monographic services; equitation, maneuvers.
27. The following charts show the various types of schools in Bulgaria giving the number of schools, teachers, and students.

Pre-school Institutes

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Nursery Schools	223	249	9,700
Kindergartens	960	1,140	35,400
Children's Homes	840	1,060	59,000
Totals	2,023	2,449	104,100

Elementary Schools and Progymnasiums

	Schools	Teachers	Students
State Elementary Schools	6,700	19,400	670,000
Other Elementary Schools	1,340	2,170	77,000
State Progymnasiums	3,100	10,600	385,000
Other Progymnasiums	250	470	24,000
Totals	11,390	32,640	1,156,000

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Secondary Schools

	Schools	Teachers	Students
State Gymnasiums	295	6,400	192,800
Other Gymnasiums	23	224	3,200
Secondary Schools for Music	5	18	510
Totals	323	6,642	196,510

Professional and Technical Schools

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Home Economics Agricultural Institutes	5	8	645
Agricultural Secondary Schools	31	160	3,700
Schools for Practical Work in Agriculture	51	230	2,600
Graduate Schools in Agriculture	120	260	4,170
Teachers' Colleges	7	22	550
Apprentice Teachers' Schools	3	8	39
Secondary Schools for Electro-Mechanics	19	267	5,700
Industrial Secondary Schools	9	41	715
Secondary Schools for Cabinetmakers	13	165	1,710
Secondary School for Cart-Builders	1	7	70
Secondary School for Builders	5	21	310
Secondary School for Artisans	3	13	120
Secondary Professional Schools for Girls	91	480	13,760
Professional Schools for Practical Work in Mechanics	11	19	730
Technical Schools for Industrial Workers	5	15	275
Technical Schools for Cabinetmakers	10	52	663
Technical Schools for Cartwrights	3	15	470
Technical School for Builders	8	21	420
Professional School for Advanced Artisans	65	135	12,450
Business Secondary Schools	15	360	8,700
Technical Secondary Schools	9	165	3,200
State Schools for Railwaymen	1	30	350
State Schools for PTT Workers	1	25	160
Mining School of Vernik	1	26	110
Mining School of Dimitrovo	1	23	105
Pernik Practical School for Machinists	1	11	120
Schools for Midwives	3	32	285
Nursing Schools	5	30	706
Child Care Schools	1	2	75
Secondary School for Bulgarian Mohammedans in Plovdiv	1	11	57
Secondary School for Viticulturists in Pleven	1	10	50
Agriculture Secondary School in Sadovo	1	7	45
Agriculture Secondary School in Tatar Pazardzhik	1	9	55
Agriculture Secondary School in Aytos	1	7	35

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Universities and Colleges

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Universities	4	515	29,000
Advanced Schools	6	755	31,000
Teachers' Colleges	<u>21</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Totals	<u>31</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>110,000</u>

Night Schools

	Schools	Teachers	Students
Elementary Schools for Illiterates	24	107	451
Elementary Schools for Semi-illiterates	23	109	600
Progymnasiums	126	509	3,900
Gymnasiums	<u>32</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>7,600</u>
Totals	<u>205</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>12,551</u>

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